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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 75% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 83,190 | Nifty 25,355 | Gold 98,400 | Silver 1,10,000 | Dollar 85.64 | Euro 99.58 | GBP 116.50

CITY PAGE 2

Keep heart Amid social media chatter and panic-driven visits to hospitals for heart screenings, Jayadeva Institute report says there is NO drastic rise in cardiac deaths

Count out While early onset of monsoon this year impacted pace of tree enumeration, it is ongoing Rath Yatra in Odisha that has brought process to halt

CITY PAGE 7

BBMP has been getting more calls over last couple of months regarding cattle roaming unattended; as commuters struggle to navigate roads, officials say penalty is too low for owners to care

BOVINE INTERVENTION

Experts suggest framing of guidelines, creating grazing zones

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The incidents of stray cattle wandering on Bengaluru's roads and streets, disrupting traffic and posing a threat to commuters, have gone up recently.

Officials from the Animal Husbandry Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) report that the number of complaints from citizens regarding issues related to unattended cattle on the roads has increased significantly.

"Up till last year, we were receiving around 170 to 180 complaints every month. However, this number has reached 220 to 230 over the last couple of months. We catch the cattle based on complaints we receive from citizens through the BBMP helpline number or Sahaaya app," said an official from the Animal Husbandry Department.

Between January and May this year, the Animal Husbandry Department impounded more than 1,000 stray cattle and fined owners a little over Rs 4.86 lakh. In 2024, fewer than 1,500 incidents of stray cattle were reported across all 12 months.

Commuters on city roads say cattle roaming unsupervised pose a major risk to motorists, especially on rainy days. Others complain of unattended cattle dung that is dangerous not only for two-wheelers but also for pedestrians.

"On multiple occasions, cattle dung is scattered on the road and sidewalks. It is risky for the elderly to ride a bike, and in case of children and the elderly both using sidewalks," said a commuter in the CV Raman Nagar area.

BBMP officials say that the majority of the cattle on the roads have owners, and since they are fed vegetables and fruits too, their dung is pasty and slippery, posing a risk to commuters, including pedestrians.

> **"On multiple occasions, dung is scattered on the road and sidewalks. It is risky for the elderly to ride a bike, and in case of children and the elderly both using sidewalks** —CV Raman Nagar resident

Inadequate penalty

While the BBMP has been impounding stray cattle and fining owners, they claim that the penalty amount under the Karnataka Cattle Trespass Act, 1966, is inadequate and thus proving to be ineffective.

"The Act prescribes a maximum penalty of Rs 600.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

IS THAT MY NUMBER?

K'taka phone users log on to govt portal, check how many SIMs are registered in their name to prevent misuse

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With growing concerns over identity theft and SIM-related fraud, lakhs of people across Karnataka are turning to the Sanchar Saathi portal, a government initiative that helps individuals check how many mobile SIM cards are registered in their name. What many of them discovered, has raised alarm bells.

As of July 2025, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) reports that over 8,60,263 users from Karnataka have submitted requests on the portal to verify their registered mobile connections. Of these, 7,68,999 cases have already been resolved, while another 91,264 requests are still under process. These figures reflect the growing awareness, and growing threat of SIM misuse in the state.

The Sanchar Saathi portal allows individuals to identify unknown or unauthorised SIMs linked to their Aadhaar or other ID documents. In many cases, citizens have been shocked to find multiple mobile numbers registered under their name, which they never applied for.

Experts point out that while individuals are allowed to hold up

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Canvas chronicles

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'A Symphony of Colour', an art exhibition featuring exquisite works by artist Amya Chhabra. The exhibition is a celebration of colour, emotion, and imagination. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: July 11 onwards**

02 Visual voyage

Karnataka Numismatic Society is presenting 'NanyaDarshini 2025', an exhibition showcasing rare and antique coins, currency notes, stamps, medals, and related collectibles. **Where: Shikshaka Sadana, Nagarathpete; When: July 11 to 13**

03 Art odyssey

National Gallery of Modern Art is organising 'Putul Katha', an illustrative lecture taking the audience on a journey through doll stories, and how folklore, tradition, and contemporary life meet through collaborative, multidisciplinary practices. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: July 11, 5 pm**

04 Poetry realm

Poet Subbaiah Nuchimanyanda Muthanna will join Sid Chengappa in a conversation about his poetry collection, 'From Reverie to Requiem'—a stirring compilation of 22 poems exploring life's contradictions. **Where: MyBoTree, Koramangala; When: July 12, 4 pm to 6 pm**

05 Comic relief

Biswa Kalyan Rath is bringing his incisive humour paired with a compelling stage presence, in a show that promises a laughter-fuelled joyride through relatable observations. **Where: Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka; When: July 12, 8 pm**

Cardiac deaths not on the rise, confirms data

Investigative report from Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research shows no significant spike that could suggest a cardiac crisis, recommends vigilance to tackle premature cardiovascular disease

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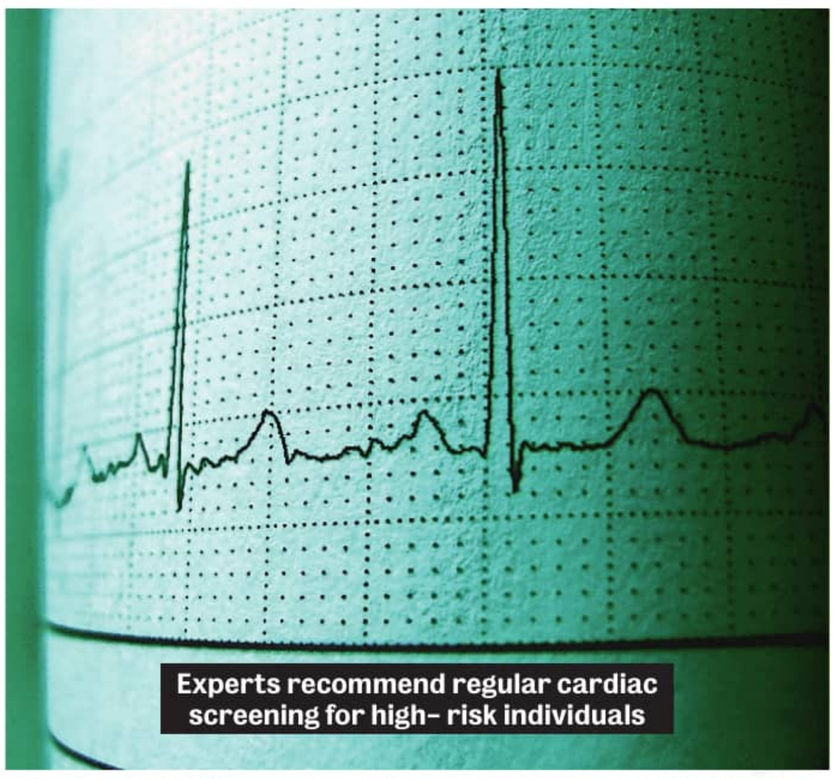
Following a string of widely reported sudden deaths — including the shocking case of a 10-year-old reportedly dying of a heart attack — concerns have mounted over a possible surge in cardiac-related fatalities in Bengaluru. Social media chatter and panic-driven visits to hospitals for heart screenings have only intensified public anxiety. However, an investigative report on the recent increase in sudden deaths in young adults by Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research paints a more grounded picture. As per the report, there has been no drastic increase in cardiac deaths.



Experts recommend regular cardiac screening for high- risk individuals

Cardiac cases stable so far

Between January and June 2025, Jayadeva Institute recorded a total of 12,057 heart attack cases and 512 deaths, indicating a consistent mortality rate of 4.24% — nearly identical to figures from previous years. This data shows no significant spike that could suggest a cardiac crisis.

January reported the highest number of heart attacks with 2,165 cases and 97 deaths (4.48%). February saw a drop to 1,931 cases and 80 deaths (4.14%). March showed a slight increase with 2,047 cases and 96 deaths (4.68%), the highest monthly fatality count. April and May saw relatively stable numbers — 2,026 cases with 84 deaths (4.14%) in April, and 1,971 cases with 78 deaths (3.95%) in May. June recorded the lowest figures of the half-year, with 1,917 cases and 77 deaths (4.01%).

No surge across centres

A broader analysis of data from Jayadeva's branches in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Kalaburagi also supports the conclusion that there has been no rising trend in cardiac deaths over the past six months. Health experts confirmed that cardiac deaths remained scattered rather than clustered, and more than 75% of the fatalities involved patients with known risk profiles such as hypertension, obesity, smoking, or alcohol use.

Gaps in autopsies

The report, however, highlighted serious limitations in confirming causes of death in many cases. Several individuals were not taken to any healthcare facility before death, and post-mortem examinations were often not conducted even in hospital-declared deaths. As a result, many presumed cardiac deaths remain unverified due to lack of ECGs, enzyme tests, or imaging reports.

Attempts at verbal autopsies were also hindered by non-cooperation from family members, further limiting the clarity of each case. Experts emphasised the urgent need for systematic investigations, including mandatory post-mortems for sudden deaths in apparently healthy individuals.

Death of younger individuals

While the overall numbers are stable, the sudden deaths of young individuals aged 19 to 43 have raised red flags. These incidents — often occurring during sleep or following mild symptoms — are deeply concerning. Some of these individuals had known risk factors, but others had no documented cardiac history. Experts say this points to an emerging pattern of premature cardiovascular disease, demanding greater public attention.

The report has recommended strengthening frontline cardiac care. Experts recommend equipping all Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres with ECG machines and essential emergency drugs, enhancing emergency response through CPR training for students, teachers, and gym trainers, and installing AEDs in crowded areas. They also stress the need for regular cardiac screening for high-stress groups like auto and cab drivers. "While isolated cases, particularly amongst the young, have sparked concern, government data does not indicate a significant rise in cardiac deaths—prompting experts to call for vigilance, not panic, and urgent systemic reforms to tackle the growing threat of premature heart disease," the report added.

KEA opens option entry for seat allotment in non-medical courses

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has opened the option entry link for first-round seat allotment for Engineering, Veterinary, Agriculture, BPT, and Allied Health Science (AHS) courses, with candidates allowed to enter their preferences until July 15. KEA Executive Director H Prasanna stated that seat matrix details for Medical, Dental, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, B Sc Nursing, Architecture, and Yoga and Naturopathy courses are still awaited from the respective departments, and option entry for these will begin once the data is received. Mock allotment results will be announced on July 19, with candidates able to modify preferences until July 22. Final allotment results will be declared on July 25. Candidates must follow priority rules while entering preferences and refer to the detailed user manual or KEA's YouTube tutorials. Those holding practical ranks in Veterinary and Agriculture courses must submit options separately for both practical and regular seats, as per the latest instructions from the National Medical Commission and the State Medical Education Department. **— BMB**

Panel to review falling SSLC Kannada scores

Kannada Development Authority (KDA) Chairman Dr Purushottama Bilimale announced the formation of a subcommittee comprising education experts and teachers to study the rising number of SSLC students failing in Kannada. The committee will submit a detailed report to the government within three months, following discussions at the KDA's general meeting on July 23. The panel will gather data to assess if the failures stem from textbook difficulty, learning gaps, or teacher-related issues. He emphasised that bilingual education in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) should be promoted instead, and urged the government to allow students to choose whether or not to learn Hindi, especially as over 5 lakh students from 40,000 Kannada-speaking families across India are being subjected to forced Hindi learning. **— BMB**

No midday meals for LKG, UKG students

LKG and UKG children in Karnataka's government schools are being denied midday meals, with the state failing to plan for their nutrition despite introducing early education in over 6,600 English-medium schools. In nearly 1,000 schools and additional Karnataka Public Schools, around 35,000 young children are missing out on midday meals. With no official provision in place, many teachers are spending from their own pockets to feed the kids, while some schools are forced to send them home before lunch. Teachers' associations have urged the government to include these children in the midday meal scheme.

Substandard lentil raises alarms

Substandard lentil raises alarms In a shocking lapse, the Education Department has allegedly supplied low-quality lentils mixed with stones, mud, and broken pulses for the midday meal scheme in government schools, compromising both nutrition and safety. Despite awarding tenders for other food items at reasonable prices, lentils have been procured at suspiciously low rates—just Rs 71.70 per kg—far below the market rate of Rs 120–Rs 150 for quality produce. In Davangere, over 1.78 quintals of this poor-quality lentil was supplied at Rs 12.40/kg by a Kalaburagi-based company. Even after boiling for three hours, the lentils remain undercooked, causing higher cooking gas usage, while forcing cooks to painstakingly clean and sort the pulses. Over 47,710 quintals were distributed across Karnataka for the period between May and July, covering meals for classes 1 to 10. While some districts received better-quality supplies priced up to Rs 74.40/kg, complaints of undercooked, hard lentils have emerged from several areas. **— BMB**

Accidents at schools: No relief fund, state offers pittance

The state's Education Department has yet to establish a dedicated relief fund, leading to delays in addressing accidents that occur during school hours. The department tends to offer minimal compensation and wash its hands of the matter, even in serious cases where students are in desperate need of medical assistance. Despite the Karnataka State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights recommending the creation of such a fund to the government, no action has been taken so far.

The absence of a formal relief mechanism leaves students and families vulnerable, especially in critical situations that demand immediate and substantial support. The Commission had recommended this fund in December 2023, stressing that it should cover not just government and aided schools but also private institutions.

Despite lakhs of students attending school daily, accidents ranging from minor injuries on the playground to life-threatening incidents continue to be reported. Yet, compensation is either too little or not provided at all.

In one such instance in Tumakuru, a student who fell into a pot of hot sambhar during school hours received only ₹5,117 from the Teachers' Welfare Fund. More tragically, cases involving fatalities due to electrocution or accidental falls have also surfaced, exposing the urgent need for structured support.

Members of the Karnataka State Children's Rights Protection Commission have suggested allocating at least ₹1 crore to establish the fund. Clear guidelines are vital to ensure timely compensation and protect students from systematic educational neglience.

Just 8,000+ teachers for 22L students

Severe teacher shortage threatens science, Math education in K'taka's government primary schools

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Karnataka, a frontrunner in the IT-BT sectors, faces a stark contrast in its primary education system. In the state's government primary schools, there are only 8,895 teachers available to teach science and math to 22 lakh students. This alarming shortage of subject-specific teachers significantly impacts the quality of education, particularly in rural areas.

According to official data, the state has 81,979 Kannada medium schools and 5,732 English medium schools offering education from grades 1 to 5. To fill the gap, the education department has been hiring guest teachers. However, experts argue that this temporary measure falls short of solving deeper structural issues affecting educational outcomes.

Educationist VP Niranjanaradhya warned that continued neglect could lead to the closure of many government schools, particularly in rural areas, where teacher shortages are most severe. "If this situation continues, these schools will struggle to retain students, ultimately forcing them to shut down," he said.

Activists and educators emphasise that the absence of dedicated science and math teachers makes learning these subjects more difficult for students. This leads to poor performance in SSLC (Class 10) board exams and contributes to an overall decline in academic achievement. "Primary education is the most critical stage for children, as they absorb the most during these formative years," said an education expert. "If these years are neglected, students lose interest, especially in complex subjects like science and math."

Experts insist that appointing subject-specific teachers and improving infrastructure are essential to restoring faith in government schools. Without urgent intervention, Karnataka's public education system could face long-term setbacks.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Experts warn, weak primary education undermines future academic performance statewide

> **If this situation continues, many government schools, especially in rural areas, are at risk of shutting down**
>
> –Educationist VP Niranjanaradhya

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No more guesswork: Public transit to get smarter soon

Tummoc and Namma Yatri launch upgraded features using open transport data to streamline commutes with live updates, alerts, and auto integration

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Open data is still being integrated, but once complete, it will give commuters a seamless way to plan their daily trips

What if your daily commute didn't mean juggling five different apps, waiting cluelessly at bus stops, or guessing which metro train you might just miss? What if you could simply know when the bus is arriving, whether it's crowded, when to hop into an auto, and where the next metro will be waiting?

That's exactly what Bengaluru's homegrown startups Tummoc and Namma Yatri are promising—and delivering—with the launch of new features powered by open data. This is not just another transport app upgrade. It's the beginning of a smarter public mobility system.

At the core of this innovation is open access to real-time data from BMTC and BMRCL. Through the Enroute Challenge by MBRDI, WRI India, and Villgro, two Bengaluru-based startups have developed solutions that make public transport more reliable, accessible, and commuter-friendly—turning mobility into a smarter, seamless experience.

The message from these startups isn't about creating flashier apps—it's about building a system. A system that puts the entire journey, from door to destination, into the commuter's control. Not just public transport, but public mobility.

Tummoc and Namma Yatri, winners of the Enroute Challenge, have launched upgraded apps that let users check real-time metro and bus schedules, view trip durations, see bus crowd levels, book and track autos, get alerts, and monitor carbon savings—making daily commutes smarter and more seamless.

Hiranmay Mallick, CEO and Co-Founder of Tummoc, said, "In a city like Bengaluru, where commutes can be long and unpredictable, even small upgrades can have a big impact. With digital metro ticketing, real-time carbon tracking, and integrated planning, commuters get more control, clarity, and motivation to opt for public transport."

Shan MS, Co-founder and COO of Namma Yatri, emphasized that the focus shouldn't be on apps alone, but on building smarter systems. "Urban mobility isn't just about buses and metros; it's about the entire journey. We're building for mobility as a whole, not just transport," he said. The real game-changer here is open data. For the first time, BMTC and BMRCL have made their transit data public, including routes, metro schedules, live arrivals, and frequency. That's what enabled Tummoc and Namma Yatri to build real-time, end-to-end journey planning.

> **"Urban mobility isn't just about buses and metros; it's about the entire journey. We're building for mobility as a whole, not just transport**
>
> – Shan MS, Co-founder and COO of Namma Yatri

Speaking to WRI India, a representative said, "Mercedes-Benz Research and WRI India identified a key problem: how can we make Bengaluru's public transport more commuter-friendly? Two local startups responded with a refreshingly practical solution." They added, "Open data integration is still underway, but once fully in place, commuters will have a seamless way to plan their daily trips. Mobility isn't just about buses or metros—it's about getting smoothly from point A to B." Bengaluru adds over 7.22 lakh new vehicles to its roads each year. It's now the third most congested city in the world. But on June 21, 2025, BMTC served a record 46 lakh passengers in one day, proving that people will choose public transport if it works.

Shri Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT, BT and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, said Bengaluru is among the fastest-growing cities globally, and achieving 70% public transport usage by 2030 will require more than infrastructure. He stressed the urgent need for first- and last-mile connectivity, digital integration, and open data.

He said the coming ten months will be crucial, with plans to integrate even more transport data. "Smart mobility isn't about adding more roads—it's about making what we have work better." Officials like BMTC MD Shri Ramachandran R and BMRCL MD Shri M Maheshwar Rao also agree that open data is key to creating a connected, commuter-first system that reduces traffic and pollution. This launch isn't the final step—it's the foundation. If successful, it could reshape how Bengaluru moves.

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Drain danger

Tata Nagar

At Tata Nagar 3rd Cross near Kodigehalli, a drain was opened for internal repairs near Balamuri Temple four months ago. The work remains incomplete, leaving the area exposed and posing a safety risk to residents.

Urban neglect

Sevanagar

The 0.5 km stretch between Maruthi Sevanagar Bus Stop and Jai Bharat Nagar Bus Stop is plagued by garbage dumps, broken footpaths, and clogged drains—making daily commutes difficult and unsafe for pedestrians.

Scamsters make most of dubious SIMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to nine SIM cards legally, the system is vulnerable to misuse. Unscrupulous telecom agents often duplicate ID proofs or take advantage of careless KYC practices to issue SIMs without the person's knowledge. These SIMs are then sold or used for fraud, scams, or criminal activity.

"Registering multiple SIM cards under a single individual's name without their knowledge is a growing enabler of cyber fraud. Fraudsters often exploit such SIMs for phishing scams, fake KYC frauds, and OTP-based banking thefts. The Sanchar Saathi portal is a crucial tool for citizens to verify active connections linked to their identity and report unauthorised ones, helping curb misuse. I urge everyone to regularly check their registered SIMs and report discrepancies immediately to prevent financial and reputational harm," Cyber Law expert advocate Mirza Faizan Assad told BM.

The Fix: Know, Track, Report

Visit https://sancharsaathi.gov.in

- Click on "Know Your Mobile Connections"
- Enter your mobile number and verify with OTP
- Get a list of all SIM cards issued using your ID
- Mark unknown numbers as "Not required" or "Not mine"

Multiple SIMs found active under single IDs

Several users across Karnataka have reported finding multiple SIM cards registered under their names, often without their knowledge. In some cases, even after a number is ported, older SIMs remain active, creating opportunities for identity theft, cybercrime, and financial fraud.

"I was shocked to see seven SIMs linked to my name when I've only applied for one," said Sahana (name changed), a postgraduate student. "I've now started checking all my KYC-linked accounts, whether it be bank or UPI." Officials say this is a serious digital loophole, but the Sanchar Saathi portal is helping citizens detect and act on it early. "Most people only realise there's a problem when banks or police alert them. This portal allows them to check before any damage is done," said a senior police official. The risks of having unauthorised SIM cards linked to your identity are significant. They can be misused for fraud, lead to police inquiries, and even affect your access to new SIMs, loans, or welfare services.

Top user

Karnataka ranks among the top five states in India in terms of Sanchar Saathi usage, a positive sign that digital awareness is growing. However, police and cyber experts say millions more still haven't checked.

With mobile numbers now tied to almost everything, from banking and Aadhaar to UPI and digital services, protecting your mobile identity is as important as securing your finances.

Roaming charges apply

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When we impound cattle, we impose a penalty of Rs 600 in case of adult cows, buffaloes, and bulls. If it is a calf, the fine is Rs 300. In rare cases, we have also impounded sheep and goats and fined Rs 25. However, the fine amount is meager for owners who are selling milk at Rs 55 per liter. They pay the fine and take cattle away in a jiffy, to commit the offence again," said the official. The department, currently attending to these complaints with the help of two cattle-lifting vehicles and 12-15 outsourced employees, says the fine should be increased fivefold for the owners to follow the rules.

Harini Raghavan, a city-based animal welfare worker, says the unattended cattle also feed on garbage, including plastic waste, leading to a public health hazard. Moreover, they run the risk of getting injured by vehicles. "There was one case of a pregnant cow in our area that was hit and lay lifeless on the road for some time. A traffic cop got her picked up, and we have no idea what happened to her. BBMP must come up with a set of guidelines for cattle, too. Rabies in cattle is real. They might get bitten by street dogs and contract the disease. How are we keeping track of rabies in cattle? BBMP must make owners accountable," said Raghavan.

Experts say BBMP should provide a conducive cattle grazing environment in lake areas in the city, which will not only ensure fewer incidents of stray cattle on city roads but will also lead to a healthier lake ecosystem. "Cattle should be integrated in the BBMP's lake rejuvenation program. Cattle feed on nutrient-rich weeds growing inside the lake area and thus create and complete the nutrient cycle. They play an important role in maintaining lakes' health. The wetlands created around lakes can be used as fodder wetland, and cattle should be allowed supervised entry inside the lake area," said V Ramprasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

IN HIGH COURT

HC to hear CM's appeal

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The Karnataka High Court will likely hear an appeal in September by Chief Minister Siddaramiah contesting a September 24, 2024, single judge's ruling that validated the Governor's authorisation for investigation/prosecution against him in the alleged MUDA scam.

The court will simultaneously consider an appeal by complainant Snehamayi Krishna challenging the refusal to transfer the investigation to the CBI.

On Wednesday, a division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice VM Kameshwar Rao and Justice CM Joshi reissued notices to unserved respondents and scheduled the appeal for September. A coordinate bench had initially issued notice on the CM's appeal on April 16.

The single judge on September 24, 2024, had rejected Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's challenge to the Governor's sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

In dismissing Siddaramaiah's petition, the single judge affirmed the complainants' right to file the complaint and seek gubernatorial approval. The court noted that seeking approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act falls to the complainant, and the Governor holds discretionary powers.

Regarding Section 17A PC Act, the court stated: "The approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act is mandatory under the facts and situation. Section 17A nowhere requires a police officer to seek approval in a private complaint registered under Section 200 of the Criminal Procedure Code or 220 of BNSS against a public servant. It is the duty of the complainant to seek such an approval".

On gubernatorial powers, the court observed that whilst the Governor typically acts on ministerial advice, independent decisions are permissible in exceptional circumstances. The court found no fault with the Governor's discretionary order.

Article 19 invoked in bike taxi dispute

In an ongoing legal dispute at the Karnataka High Court, ANI Technologies (OLA) has challenged the state's prohibition on bike taxis, asserting that this restriction infringes upon their fundamental right to trade as guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

Senior Advocate Arun Kumar, representing OLA, noted that whilst the single judge acknowledged motor bikes' eligibility for registration and carriage permits, the state's policy decision against bike taxis was upheld.

Kumar argued, "Our right stems from a fundamental right under Article 19 (1) (g)...the MV Act contemplates the delegation of certain things. If there is a guaranteed fundamental right under Article 19, can it be taken away? Subordinate legislation has to be in conformity with the statute. This restriction is not by the MV Act or rules made under it. Does the executive power extend beyond the statute?"

The counsel emphasised that the state's executive actions cannot supersede existing provisions, as this would contradict the Motor Vehicles Act.

The submission highlighted that whilst legal restrictions are permissible, the state cannot prohibit operations when the MV Act allows registration and permits, as this violates statutory and constitutional provisions.

Kumar stated, "My submission is that if you make a rule and it takes away my right under the MV Act, it has to stand the test of reasonableness...The Central Government policy permits motorcycles to be used as bike taxis and so on. It is contrary to what the state government is saying here."

The counsel referenced the interim order, noting that applications for motorcycle registration as transport vehicles were not processed, and the state withheld carriage permits.

The counsel concluded, "A plain reading of the aggregator rules permits motor vehicles, including motorcycles, to be aggregated. That is not in dispute at all." –BMB

'Walk to office, it's faster'

A tongue-in-cheek post by a commuter stuck in Kundalahalli's Thursday gridlock has gone viral, mirroring the city's worsening traffic and crumbling pedestrian infrastructure.

"If you're anywhere near Kundalahalli, leave your vehicle and walk to the office. You'll get there faster," wrote @WFWatcher on X, alongside a photo of stalled vehicles stretching along the IT corridor.

The post hit a nerve, as users echoed frustration: "Where's the footpath to walk?" one asked. "Encroached by vendors," replied another.

Kundalahalli, a key connector between Whitefield, Marathahalli and Brookefield, chokes daily under narrow roads and stalled infrastructure work. While some users debated the photo's exact location, others reported similar delays, including a 20-minute jam at Goraguntepalya.

Amid this, yet another flashpoint is the delayed Yellow Line of Namma Metro. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya has launched a countdown campaign, demanding that BMRCL stick to the August 15 deadline. –BMB

Woman killed as lorry rams bike

A 22-year-old woman died on the spot after a speeding lorry rammed into a stationary bike on the 8th Mile Service Road in Peenya on Wednesday afternoon. The victim, Lakshmi, was travelling with her husband, Ambareesh and their 8-month-old child when the accident occurred around 2.45 pm.

According to police, the family had stopped their two-wheeler on the roadside to drink water when the lorry suddenly veered and struck them. Lakshmi was killed instantly, while Ambareesh and the child sustained minor injuries. They were rushed to KCG Hospital and are currently undergoing treatment.

The lorry driver, reportedly a native of Haryana, was allegedly under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. Lakshmi's body has been shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem. The Peenya traffic police have seized the vehicle and taken the driver into custody. A case has been registered, and the accused has been arrested. Further investigation is underway. –BMB

Body discovered in canal

A decomposed body of a 40-year-old man was found in the Vrushabhavathi Mori canal near RV College on Wednesday afternoon. This is the second such incident reported in the same location in recent times.

According to police sources, the body appeared to be at least three days old and showed signs of decomposition. Residents, who noticed worms crawling over the corpse, immediately alerted the authorities.

The Kengeri police rushed to the scene and cordoned off the area. An initial forensic inspection was conducted, and the body was sent for post-mortem to ascertain the exact cause of death. So far, the identity of the deceased has not been confirmed. Police have registered a case under suspicious circumstances and are probing how the body ended up in the canal. Further investigation is underway. –BMB

Space-grown Methi and Huruli sprout hope for astronaut diets

Seeds from Dharwad germinate aboard ISS, sparking groundbreaking research on microgravity farming and future food for deep space missions

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In a remarkable blend of agriculture and space science, seeds of fenugreek (methi) and horse gram (huruli) sent from Dharwad's University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) as part of the Axiom-4 Mission have reportedly germinated aboard the International Space Station (ISS). This successful germination marks a significant step toward India-centric research on salad crop viability in microgravity and now, the focus shifts back to Earth, specifically to Dharwad, where the seeds will be studied in depth.

The sprouted seeds are expected to return to UAS Dharwad in the coming weeks, where a detailed scientific analysis will begin. Researchers aim to determine how space conditions such as microgravity and cosmic radiation have impacted the seeds' growth and overall biology. The parameters under review will include germination rate, nutritional composition, phytohormone activity, gene expression (via transcriptome sequencing), and microbial interactions.

Dr Ravikumar Hosamani and Dr Sudhir Siddapur Reddy, who are leading the next phase of the research, will focus on understanding how microgravity might have influenced physiological and genetic changes in the plants. "This opens up a new chapter for Indian agricultural science. Growing food in space is no longer just theoretical, we are seeing the first steps in practice," said a senior UAS researcher.

UAS Dharwad gears up for transcriptome and phytohormone studies on sprouts returned from orbit

> **"We await official confirmation on germination; if sprouted, a detailed study at UAS Dharwad will precede astronaut approval**
>
> –Dr PL Patil Vice Chancellor of Dharwad's University of Agricultural Sciences

Fenugreek and horse gram were selected for their dual value as both nutritional and medicinal crops. Astronauts often face a range of health challenges on long-duration missions, including bone density loss, kidney stones, and cardiovascular strain. "Fenugreek is known to support bone health, regulate heart function, and prevent kidney stones. Horse gram is packed with proteins and antioxidants that can aid metabolism and boost overall health," university officials noted.

Despite early reports of germination, researchers are still awaiting official confirmation from the mission team. "We have not yet received final confirmation regarding the sprouting of the seeds. If proven, we will initiate detailed lab studies at UAS Dharwad before taking the next steps," said Dr PL Patil, Vice Chancellor of the university.

The seeds were launched aboard a capsule that lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on June 25, 2025. The experiment is part of India's contribution to international space food research aimed at developing sustainable dietary solutions for future manned deep-space missions.

Farmers demand fair pay, secure jobs for land lost to defence park

Y Maheswara Reddy
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A group of farmers from Channarayapatna hobli in Devanahalli taluk on Thursday demanded that the state government provide suitable compensation for the agricultural land proposed to be acquired for the establishment of a high-tech Defence and Aerospace Park. The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) plans to acquire 1,777 acres of land spread across 13 villages in the region.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Bengaluru Press Club, the farmers made it clear that they are not against the government's development initiatives. However, they insisted that the compensation for their agricultural land must reflect prevailing market rates. "We are not opposing the Defence and Aerospace Park near Devanahalli. All we are asking is fair and just compensation for our land," said Chennakeshava, a farmer from Channarayapatna.

He added that the farmers plan to stage a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on July 12 to press for their demands. "We also want the government to provide employment to farmers' children in the industries that will come up in the proposed park. Several farmers are willing to hand over their land if proper compensation and livelihood security are ensured," he said.

Protesters gather at Freedom Park, urging the CM to intervene in KIADB land acquisition

The farmers said that due to lack of irrigation facilities, many are already struggling to sustain farming in the region. Highlighting this, Lakshminarayana, a farmer from Hydala village, pointed out that fertile land should be preserved while barren land can be used for industrial purposes. "There are around 150 acres of barren land available for acquisition. The government should prioritise that instead," he said.

Srinivas, another farmer, drew attention to the worsening groundwater crisis. "We are forced to dig borewells as deep as 1,600 feet to get water. Even then, there's no guarantee of a steady supply. The high costs of maintaining borewells and pumps are pushing farmers into debt," he explained.

> **"We are not against the Defence Park, but demand suitable compensation for our agricultural land**
>
> –Chennakeshava a farmer from Channarayapatna

Dodde Gowda, also from Channarayapatna, said agriculture is the only means of livelihood for many in the region. "If we are displaced without fair compensation, our survival will be at risk. The KIADB should acquire land only after settling compensation claims," he said, adding that a memorandum will soon be submitted to the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, a section of farmers has been opposing the KIADB's land acquisition plan since April 2022, citing concerns over displacement and inadequate compensation.

CM dismisses power sharing buzz

Amid swirling speculation over a leadership change in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah firmly declared in Delhi on Thursday that he would complete his full five-year term, quashing talk of any power-sharing deal with Deputy CM DK Shivakumar. "There is no power-sharing formula. I am the Chief Minister for the full term and will lead the Congress in the 2028 elections," Siddaramaiah said, reiterating his stand in the national capital where both leaders are meeting senior Congress figures, including Rahul Gandhi.

Siddaramaiah acknowledged Shivakumar's ambition for the top post, calling it "natural," but noted that even Shivakumar had stated the CM's post is not vacant. With the government nearing its mid-term mark in November, reports suggest Shivakumar may be lobbying for a leadership transition during his Delhi visit. However, Siddaramaiah dismissed the idea, asserting he enjoys the support of the majority. "Some MLAs may back him, but most don't," he said, ruling out any imminent shift.

–BMB

Chola-era stone hails brave dog

Historical stones reveal Chola-era culture of honouring sacrifice, bravery and valor

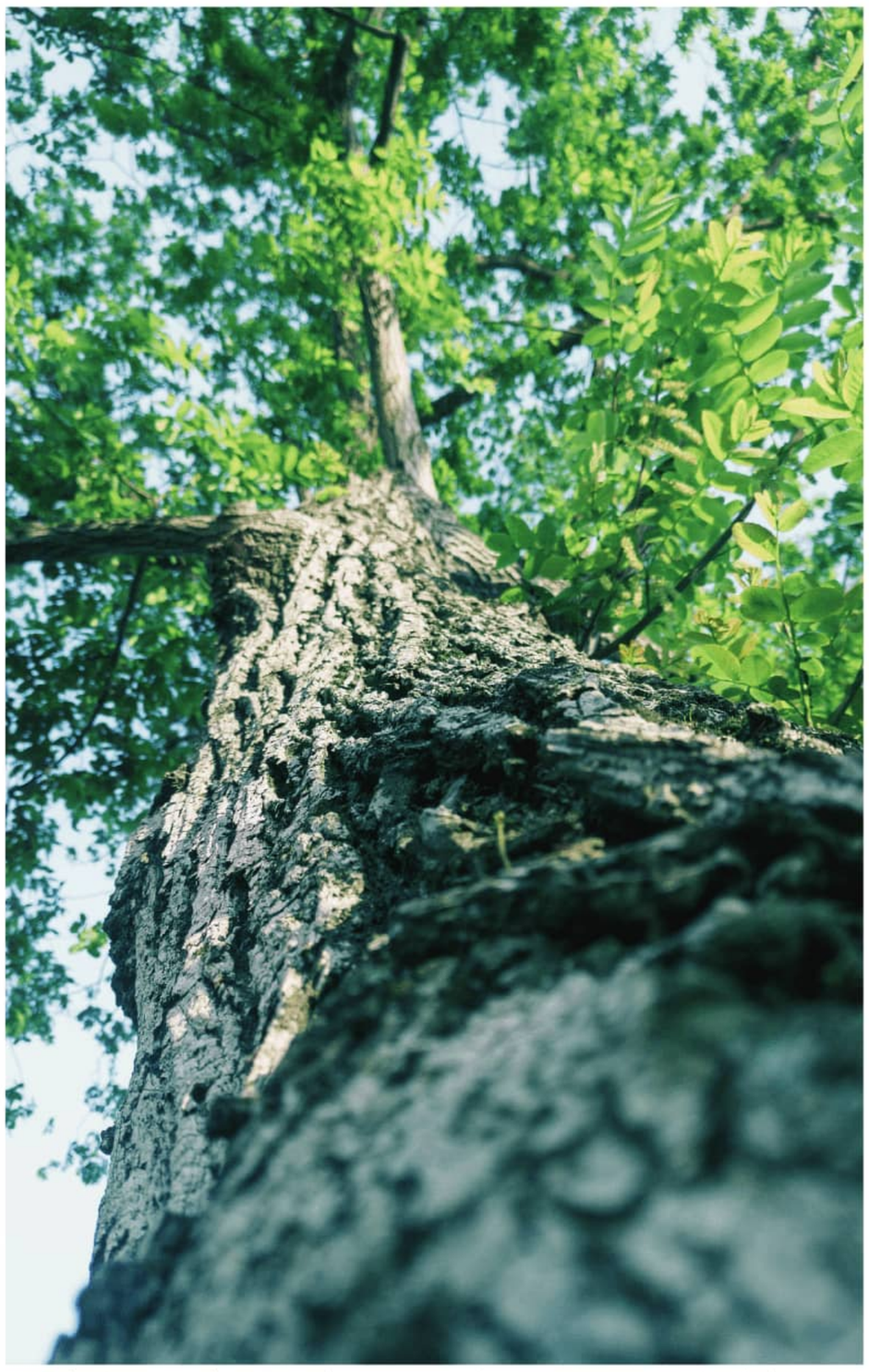
In a rare archaeological find, a hero stone (Veeragallu) commemorating a dog's valour has been unearthed near Thotagere in Hesaraghatta Hobli. Believed to date back to the Chola period (8th–10th century), the stone is a tribute to a dog that died protecting farmlands from wild boars.

The stone features a detailed carving of dogs battling wild boars, symbolising their role in safeguarding crops, a rare instance where an animal is honoured for bravery. Nearby, another hero stone bearing Tamil inscriptions commemorates the son of a local chieftain (Gowda) who died in battle. This stone shows celestial nymphs (Apsaras) lifting the fallen warrior to the heavens, a traditional motif in South Indian hero worship. Historian Madhusudan explained the cultural importance of the stones, while Karnataka Shasana Academy members and senior epigraphists K Dhanapal and KR have verified the authenticity of the discovery.

–BMB

Tree census on hold, deadlines keep shifting

Long-delayed tree survey slows again as workers go home for Rath Yathra, and lack of bidders stall progress; despite court orders and funds, poor planning continues to hamper green audit



BBMP is floating fresh tenders after earlier contractor quit midway

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's tree census was started in February last year, after a delay of nearly five years following the Karnataka High Court's order.

However, it is now temporarily on hold due to unexpected reasons. As bizarre as it may sound, while the early onset of monsoon this year has impacted the pace of tree enumeration, the ongoing Rath Yatra in Odisha has brought the process to a screeching halt.

"The on-field workers hired by the contracting agency that is conducting the census in five out of the eight BBMP zones are from the northern part of the country. Thus, the Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha, has paused the work for 15 days. Small patch works are going on, verification and monitoring are being followed," said the source.

In the rest of the three zones, BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) is still in the process of floating tenders after the previous contractor quit in the middle of the project.

According to the source, while progress has been made in Yelahanka and Dasarahalli, the process in Mahadevapura, RR Nagar, Bengaluru South has not moved on-ground for more than a month now after BBMP floated new tenders in April this year, following slow progress made by the contractor in these zones.

However, the palike has landed in a zero-bid situation twice, and fresh tenders will soon be floated.

BBMP started the census in February 2024 with a fund allocation of a little over Rs 3.74 crore, following the High Court order in August 2019, instructing the civic agency to enumerate Bengaluru's trees. August 2024 was the first deadline set by the palike, which was then pushed to November, followed by March 2025.

> **There is no deadline fixed for census to be completed. However, we are looking at wrapping up process by the end of this year. Although it should have been over by now**–Preeti G, BBMP

"It is unfortunate that an important project is being stalled due to a shortage of manpower. Bengaluru is blessed with many citizen groups, RWAs (Resident Welfare Association), and Hasiru volunteers, who could have helped BBMP in enumerating trees. That apart, educational institutions across the city would have completed the work at much lower cost if they were given a chance. Green assets are not the priority for our authorities," said Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

When BM approached Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner, BBMP, she said, "There is no deadline fixed for the census to be completed. However, we are looking at wrapping up the process by the end of this year. Although it should have been over by now, technical issues and a lack of bidders have led to the delay."

Man arrested for filming women

Banashankari police have arrested a 26-year-old man for filming women in public spaces without their consent and posting the videos on his Instagram account to gain followers and engagement.

The accused, identified as Gurdeep Singh, a hotel management graduate from KR Puram, was arrested based on a suo motu FIR filed by police after multiple complaints surfaced online. One of the victims had shared a post exposing the account, which featured voyeuristic videos of unsuspecting women, often edited for effect, taken in crowded public areas like Church Street.

Police said the accused is unemployed and living with his brother. He used to roam around with friends, secretly recording women and uploading the content for attention on social media. His mobile phone has been seized and sent for forensic analysis, and police are working with Instagram to take down the offensive account.

According to police officials, the Instagram page had gained over 10,000 followers and featured at least 45 reels, many filmed without the knowledge of the women involved. The case has been registered under voyeurism laws and relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the IT Act.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued a strong statement on Thursday in response to growing concerns over such incidents. "It pains me deeply to see women being secretly filmed and harassed in public spaces, with such videos circulated online at the cost of women's dignity. This is not the Karnataka we stand for", he wrote on X (formerly Twitter)

He also urged citizens to report any such accounts or videos circulating online, either by calling 1930 or visiting cybercrime.gov.in, adding, "Let us all work together to build a Karnataka where every woman feels safe, respected, and free." **–BMB**

It is scientific & traditional: Raise a toast to toddy

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In what marks a fascinating blend of tradition and technology, toddy tapping—once seen as a rural craft relegated to distant coastal belts—is all set to make a comeback right in Bengaluru's backyard. The lush coconut groves of Ramanagara district, particularly around Channapatna, are gearing up to produce Neera, the nutrient-rich, non-alcoholic sap tapped from coconut trees, in a controlled and scientific manner. With permissions from the Excise Department in the final stages and processing units nearly ready, the region is poised to take its first official sip of Neera in just 10 days. This revival isn't just agricultural—it's symbolic of how forgotten rural practices, when backed by science and policy, can find a new place in modern markets.

Preparations are in full swing to commence Neera tapping along the Bengaluru–Mysuru Bypass. A dedicated processing and storage unit is almost ready and expected to become operational shortly. From here, Neera will be collected, processed, and marketed.

Controlled tapping with permissions

As per the protocol, any coconut grower wishing to tap Neera must seek permission through their local officials. The Excise Department has capped permissions at 10 trees per farmer, and each approved tree will be marked and numbered. Only these designated trees are to be tapped. Further, only Neera collected from approved trees can be processed and sold, ensuring regulatory compliance and quality control.

Neera is not new to region; Channapatna saw movement around it nearly 25 years ago

Core of revival

Neera, as a concept, is not new to the region. In fact, the Neera movement gained significant traction in Channapatna nearly 25 years ago. Due to threats like black beetle infestations and bud rot disease, coconut farmers had pressured the government for permission to tap Neera. Despite initial support, the lack of scientific backing and departmental clearances eventually stalled the movement. Some farmers even lost their lives during protests—such as the tragic shootout incident in Karakkere—marking a turning point in the political narrative around Neera.

Now, with scientific processing methods in place and necessary training provided to the excise staff, hopes have been rekindled. Two officials in Channapatna have already initiated groundwork to extract and process Neera, not just as a drink but also to develop by-products such as Neera jaggery, sugar, and even chocolates. Plans for establishing a dedicated processing unit for these products are underway. Efforts are currently ongoing at the government level to obtain all necessary permissions. "Scientific training on Neera collection and processing has already been imparted to our staff. Once the Excise Department provides clearance, we are ready to begin operations," said Dharanesh Rampura, Director of the District Coconut and Mango Growers Producer Company.

Regulatory framework ensures quality

According to current excise laws, Neera cannot be tapped from palm trees, as it ferments quickly and turns alcoholic. Hence, tapping is restricted to scientifically approved coconut trees. Special processing methods will ensure Neera remains non-fermented and safe for consumption. Excise permission is mandatory before commercial sales.

BBMP launches chicken rice for strays

In a move sparking debate, the BBMP has launched a ₹2.88 crore annual project to feed hot "chicken rice" meals once daily to 5,000 street dogs across Bengaluru. Each dog will receive a 367-gram specially prepared meal comprising 150g of chicken, 100g rice, 100g vegetables, and 10g oil—at a cost of ₹22.42 per portion. Touted as a pioneering animal welfare initiative, the plan has drawn criticism for its timing and priorities, particularly amid a rise in stray dog attacks—most recently, a 72-year-old man was mauled in Lalbagh. Prepared under the guidance of the Animal Husbandry Department, the plan designates over 100 feeding spots in each BBMP zone. It also invites public participation, encouraging animal lovers to co-sponsor meals through BBMP-appointed agencies.

However, concerns persist over the use of taxpayer funds, especially given mounting civic issues and the poor reception of earlier pilot programs. — BMB

Peenya industries choke without waste plant

Despite being one of Asia's largest industrial hubs for over 55 years, Bengaluru's Peenya Industrial Area still lacks a Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), causing serious environmental and groundwater concerns.

Spread across 1,800 acres, including land developed by the KIADB and Karnataka Small Scale Industries Development Corporation since 1970, Peenya houses over 13,000 industries—many classifieds under high-pollution "red" and "orange" categories such as electroplating, dyeing, pharmaceuticals, and battery reprocessing.

While larger units treat their own waste, thousands of small and micro industries rely on tankers to transport 55.21 KLD (kilolitres per day) of effluents to private CETPs in Doddaballapur and Bengaluru Rural. This comes at a steep cost of ₹5–8 per litre, with no clear assurance of proper treatment or disposal.

In 2018–19, ₹10 crore was sanctioned for a CETP in Peenya, but the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) failed to implement the project and eventually returned the funds. — BMB

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I, Vivy Smith W/O Smith Ollukaran Joseph, R/o No.44/1, 8th Cross, Swimming Pool Extension, Bangalore North, Malleshwaram, Bangalore, Karnataka-560003 do hereby changing my name to Vivy Smith Ollukaran for all future purposes vide the affidavit No.IN-KA77988541696117X dated 03/07/2025.

I, SURAIYA W/o IRSHAD AHMED R/o No 5/1 Govind Chetty Colony Queens Road Shivajinagar Bengaluru - 560051. I have changed my name to RESHMA BEGUM vide affidavit dated: 03/07/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I ZULKAFIL S/o Karimulla R/o No 20 6th Cross Vinayakanagar Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to ZULKAFIL K for all Purposes

I, Anagha Londhe, W/o Anil Londhe, R/at No.98, 8th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560072 here by declare that GEETHA KUMARI K & ANAGHA LONDHE both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dt: 10.07.2025 before notary Devaraja E, Bangalore.

I, Vishwanath Kudchi R/o Flat.302, Vamshi Rishi Apt, Ameerpet, secunderabad, Begumpet, Hyderabad 500016 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Vishwanath Mahalingappa Kudchi. I shall called by this name for all purpose

I, Roopa Yachanahalli Krishnan (Old name), residing at No. 467, Samruddhi, 12th Main, M.C Layout, Vijaya Nagar, Bengaluru-560040 have changed my name to Roopa Praveen Kumar, (New name) affidavit dt: 07.07.2025 before notary V. Anjanappa, B.lore.

I, SATABDI KARAKOTI, Residing at G-705, Sumadhura Eden Garden, Seegehalli, Bangalore – 560067, have changed my name to SATABDI SWAIN, vide affidavit dated 09/07/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, AHMED IRSHAD AHMED SIRAJ S/o SIRAJ AHMED R/o No 5/1 Govind Chetty Colony Queens Road Shivajinagar Bengaluru - 560051. I have changed my name to IRSHAD AHMED vide affidavit dated: 03/07/2025 Before Notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, Viswanatha Venkatachala S/O R.Venkatachala # No- 16/4, 15th Main, 2nd Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore 560023 have changed my name to Vishwanath Venkatachala for all purposes.

I Vijaya Shetty, S/o, Govinda Shetty , residing At, 58, 3rd Floor, 4th Cross, B- Sector, Amruth Nagar, Amruthalli, bengaluru 560092, have changed my name to, Vijay Shetty for all Purposes.

I, RAKESH T. L, No 690, 7th Main, J. P. Nagar 3rd Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Have chan -ged my name to RAKESH LAKSHMINARAYANA TALANKI, vide affidavit dated 10/07/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, Hiranmayi A D/O, Anil Jayaram R/o No 30, Babasabarapalya, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South - 560060 have changed my name to Keerthana Anil for all purposes

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Don't judge Actress Neha Dhupia has spoken about age, appearance, and the judgments women often face. She said there is a need to stop putting women under a microscope for their appearance, whether they are in their 20s or 40s.

A GENUINE BOND

Vedang talks about working with Khushi

Vedang Raina, who stepped into Bollywood with Zoya Akhtar's musical drama 'The Archies', has spoken about the warm bond he shares with his co-star and rumoured girlfriend Khushi Kapoor.

Ever since the film was announced, rumours about the two dating have floated around – from playful comments on mutual friends' social media posts to sneaky appearances together in photo dumps. However, neither Vedang nor Khushi has ever confirmed or denied the whispers, choosing instead to keep their personal lives away from public scrutiny.

In a chat with Hindustan Times, Vedang spoke warmly about working with Khushi. He shared how their connection felt smooth right from the start. "Working with Khushi was effortless and really fun – there's a natural comfort between us. Our bond is easygoing and genuine." Vedang said.

Vedang started his journey in Bollywood with 'The Archies'. After that, he went on to act in 'Jigra' alongside Alia Bhatt. Even though

many had high hopes for the film, it didn't get the response everyone expected. Looking back at his path so far, Vedang shared how much he has grown. "My journey of self-discovery and expression has been one of growth and self-awareness," he said.

—ETimes

Happy leading ladies

Sampada Hulivana is excited about the release of her second movie Ekka that is scheduled for release on July 18. She made her debut as a heroine in Sandalwood with Benki that was released in July 2022. "I play the role of Mallika in Ekka. It is a different role and I learnt a lot during the shooting, which I was a part of for around 20 days. I had an opportunity to learn new things and improve my acting skills. We all have worked hard and are confident of the movie's success," said Sampada.

She said the shooting of the movie was memorable because it was supported by three well-known production houses and it was directed by Rohit Padaki, a well-known director.

Sanjana Anand, who plays Nandini, a middle-class fearless girl who works as a sales girl, said that she was very happy to be part of the movie. "I got an opportunity to see what I have done and how I have acted in the movie while dubbing my own voice for the movie. I am satisfied with my performance. I am sure this movie adds value to my acting career," said Sanjana. Sanjana has been receiving calls from her fans appreciating her performance in the song Bangle Bangari. "Many are uploading reels of the song that has become popular on Instagram," she said.

Ekka has Yuva Rajkumar in the lead and is bankrolled by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar (PRK Productions), Jayanna, Bhogendra (Jayanna Films), Karthik R Gowda, and Yogi G Raj (KRG Studios).

—Y Maheswara Reddy

'Sara & I hit it off from day 1'

Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan shared the screen for the first time in Anurag Basu's anthology, Metro... In Dino. Their on-screen chemistry and off-screen camaraderie have caught fans' attention, and the duo has been winning praise for it. When asked

how they built on their on-screen chemistry, Aditya downplays the idea of any formulaic approach. "I don't think there's any great process for it. If the writing is good, then the situations that you are put in as actors evoke that chemistry and that feeling. Having

said that, it's always an advantage if you get along with your costar and share an easy camaraderie. With Sara, I think, that happened pretty much on the first day. We hit it off well and had quite an easy energy on set. We didn't have to try too hard."

Aditya also credits director Anurag Basu for creating a space that allows relationships to develop naturally. "Dada (Basu) has this amazing way of setting up scenes. He puts you in situations where things just click — they happen organically." Although Aditya and Sara had known each other socially, it was only during the shoot of the film that they really connected. "We'd met over the years at events and parties, but working together on a film, especially one that's Although Aditya and Sara had known each other socially, it was only during the shoot of the film that they really connected. "We'd met over the years at events and parties, but working together on a film, especially one that's so intense, is a completely different experience. You're on set for 12 hours a day, so you end up spending a lot of time together and getting to know each other better."

—ETimes

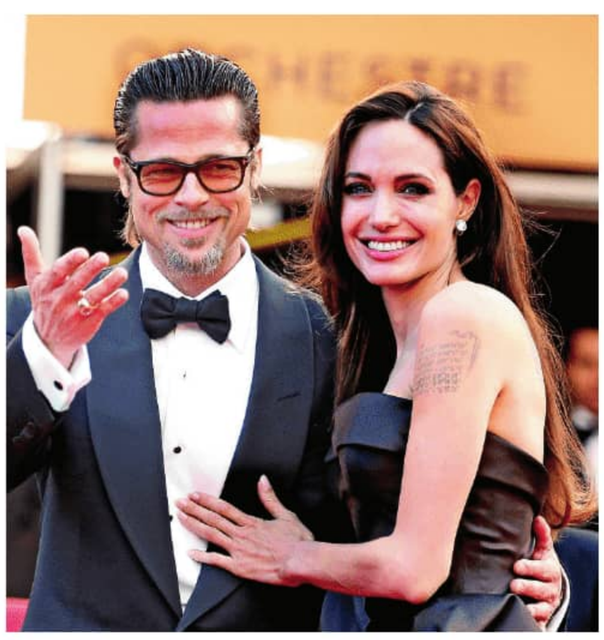
Brad-Angelina legal fight heats up

Hollywood Actor Brad Pitt has demanded private communications from ex-wife Angelina Jolie in their ongoing legal fight over Chateau Miraval, the French winery the former couple once co-owned.

According to court documents filed on June 30 with PEOPLE, the 61-year-old actor requested records and a deposition from Alexey Oliynik, an employee of the Stoli Group. Pitt believes Oliynik has key information about Jolie's 2021 sale of her stake in the winery to Stoli's wine division, Tenute del Mondo. Pitt claims that Jolie made the sale without his consent, violating an agreement that neither would sell their share without the other's approval. In February 2022, he sued Jolie, while Jolie in September 2022 filed a countersuit, accusing Pitt of "waging a vindictive war" against her.

In Pitt's new document, Oliynik has refused to provide documents or sit for questioning, stating that he cannot be forced to do so since he resides in Switzerland. Pitt's team argues these records are important to prove that Jolie "acted with malice" by selling her share to a buyer Pitt had long opposed.

—ANI



Chitrangda boards cast of Salman's film

Actor Chitrangda Singh on Thursday joined the cast of "Battle Of Galwan", the upcoming war drama set to be headlined by superstar Salman Khan.

The movie, which is directed by Apoorva Lakhia of "Shootout at Lokhandwala" fame, is based on the 2020 Galwan valley conflict between armed personnel of India and China.

It will mark the maiden collaboration between Chitrangda, known for movies such as "Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi", "Yeh Saali Zindagi" and "Desi Boyz", and Salman. "I've always wanted to work with Chitrangda since I watched her amazing performance in 'Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi' and then 'Bob Biswas'," Lakhia said in a statement.

"We're thrilled to welcome Chitrangda Singh to the cast of Battle of Galwan. Chitrangda brings a rare blend of strength and sensitivity to the screen as her feminine side will match perfectly with Salman Sir's brooding but quiet strength," he added.

—PTI

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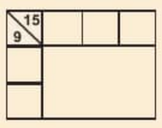
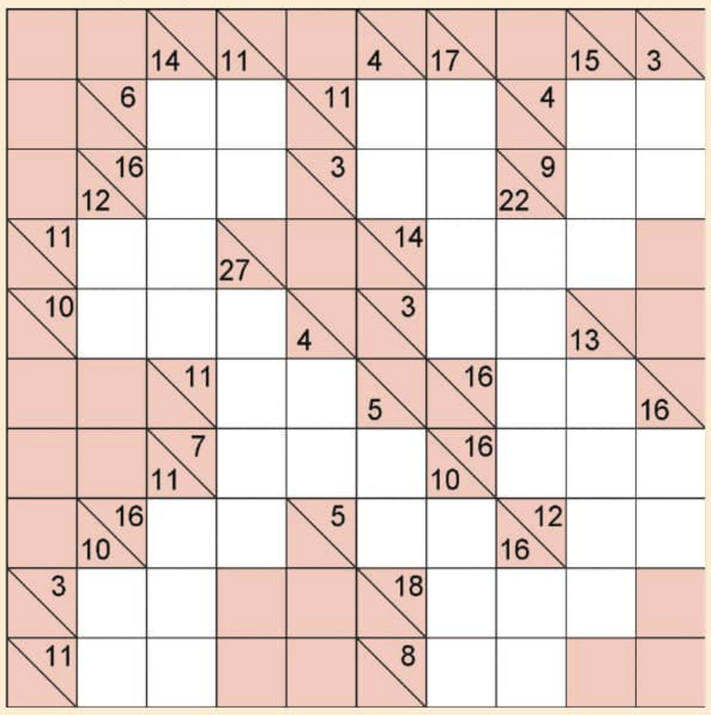
Kakuro

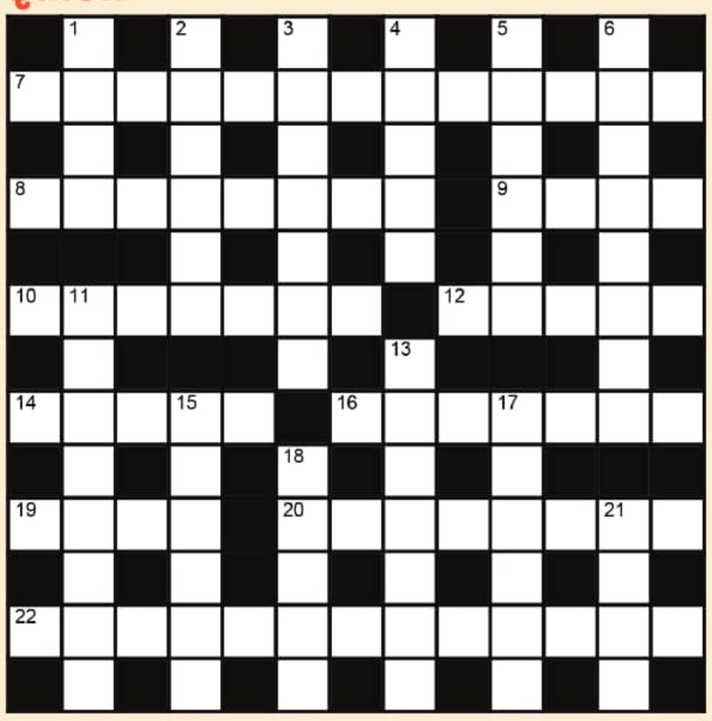
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Personal belongings; equipment (13)
8 Moved unsteadily; vacillated (8)
9 Ridge on corduroy etc. (4)
10 Expressed indirectly (7)
12 Now and ___ : occasionally or frequently? (5)
14 City in Rajasthan (5)
16 More brackish (7)
19 Eastern continent (4)
20 Predisposed (8)
22 Renowned (13)

DOWN

1 Breathing sound (4)
2 Corporate trust (6)
3 Arraigned or impeached (7)
4 Unrefined (5)
5 Pincered insect (6)
6 Be busy doing nothing or just sit twiddling one's thumbs? (4,4)
11 The bus station named after Kempe Gowda is more commonly known by this name (8)
13 Get level with (5,2)
15 Dramatizes or performs (6)
17 Craving for drink (6)
18 Metallic-sounding (5)
21 At any time (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS P

D RGMX WENW WEJIJ NIJ SJMSYJ XEM TM GMW YMOJ WEJDI ZJYYMX QNG, NGT D ENWJ SJMSYJ YDRJ WENW!

Linemaro

You look gloomy. You need some vitamin me

Mindchow

A slave is one who waits for someone to come and free him

Joke of the day

Rajinikanth has every website stored in his memory. He refreshes websites by blinking

Loop

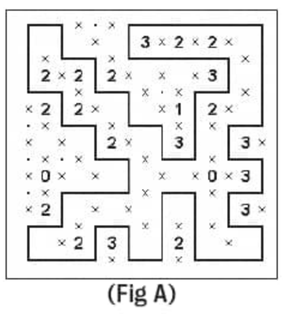
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

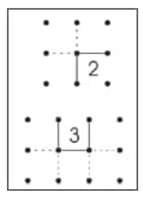
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

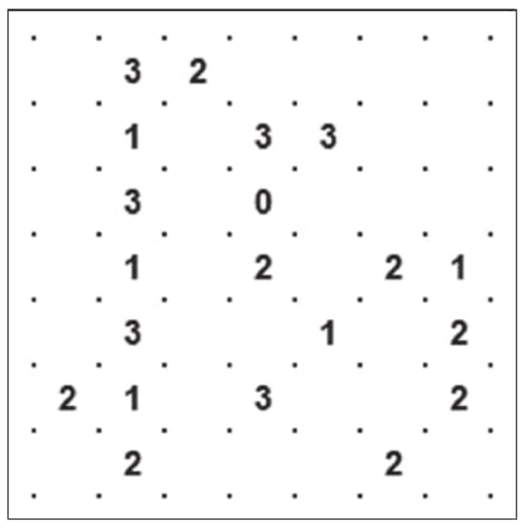
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



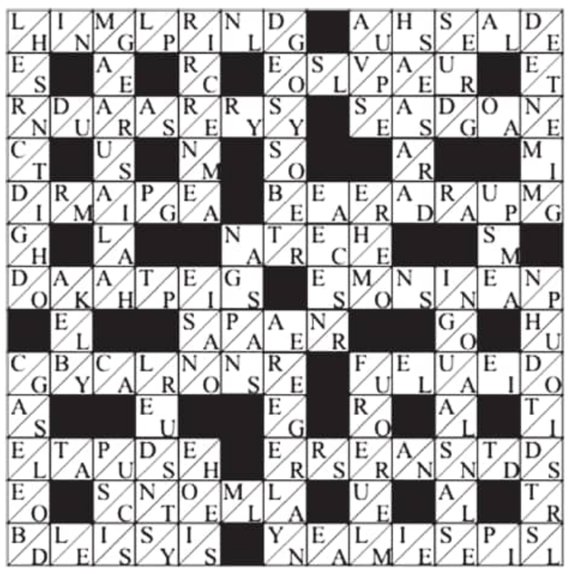
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



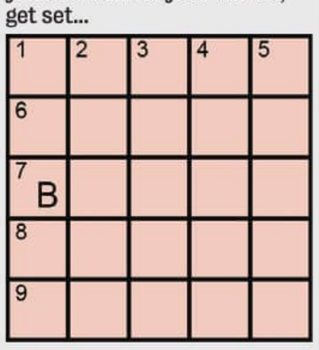
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

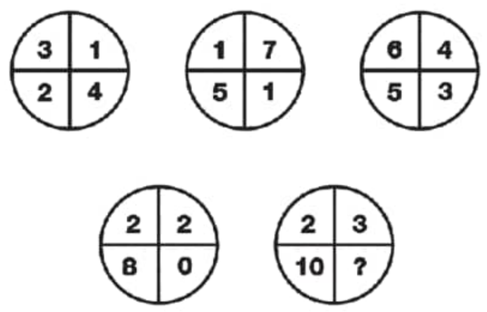
1 As mum; 6 On ani; 7 BT ran; 8 Or Its; 9 Aye UG

DOWN

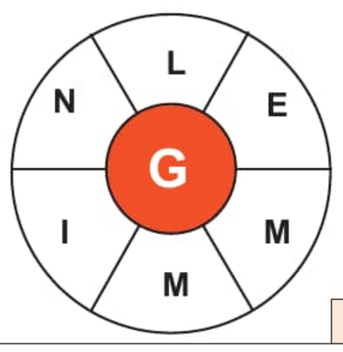
1 Arabs; 2 Ruing; 3 Ma IOU; 4 Monet; 5 Nasty

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; **03** Good; **04** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	8						4	
1			3		8			6
5		6		1		8		9
		5	1		2	3		
			7		9			
		7	6		5	2		
4		3		2		7		5
7			4		3			1
	2						8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

2 6 6 8

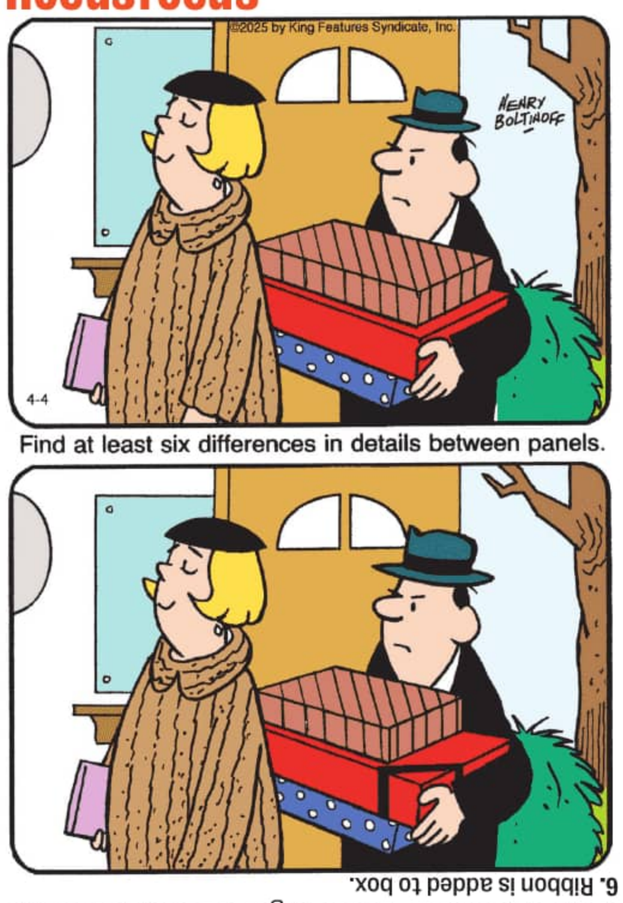
Medium = 12

4 5 6 7

Hard = 61

1 4 9 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

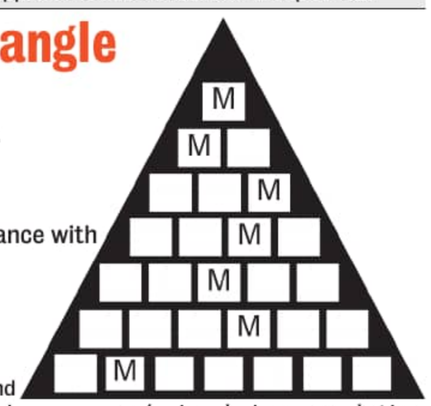
Differences: 1. Box is smaller. 2. Sleeve is longer. 3. Mirror is smaller. 4. Hat is larger. 5. Branch is different. 6. Ribbon is added to box.

Riddler

My friends and I were enjoying the atmosphere (and food) at an authentic English pub in town. We all ordered tea, and the barmaid brought us all our preferred variety. She passed by each of us and asked, "Would you like milk or lemon?" One of my friends simply said "Yes" and quickly poured a bit of milk and squeezed a lemon wedge into his cup. He passed the milk back to the young lady who smiled and said "I'll be right back with another cup for you, sir." My friend was confused at first, but upon her return he was happy to have a fresh cup. What had happened to necessitate a new cup of tea?

Alpha triangle

1 Meter, abbr.
2 Do, re, _ fa ....
3 Simulation, abbr.
4 Lowers the light
5 Ten cents coins
6 Martian moon
7 Enforced compliance with

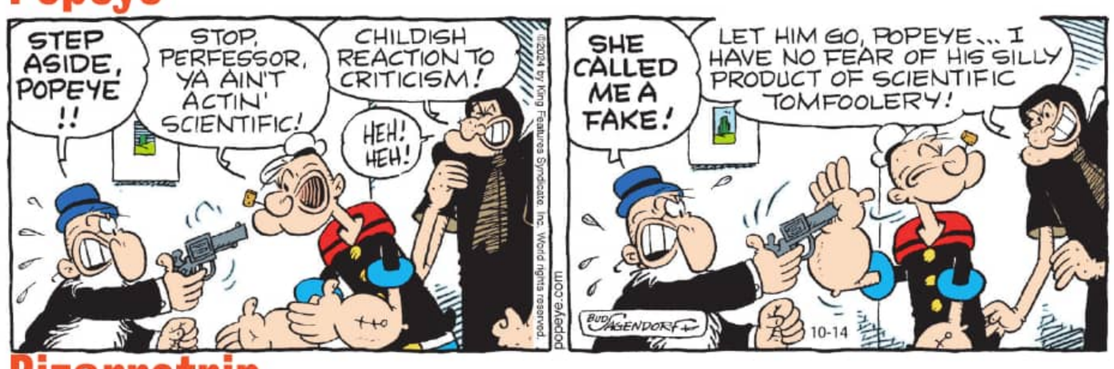


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

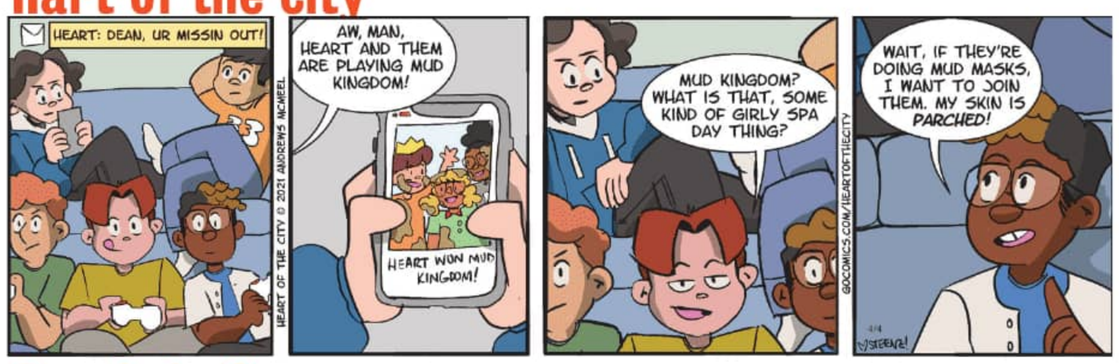
Popeye



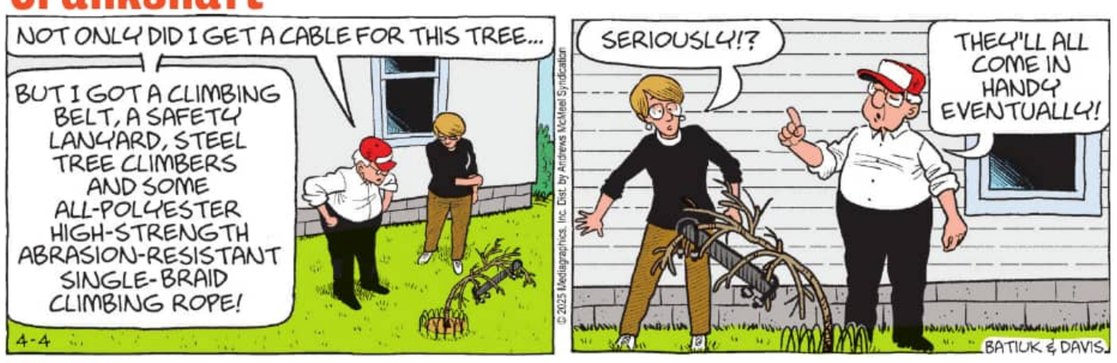
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today may bring some emotional discomfort. Recurring health issues might cause impatience, and there's a tendency to spend on unnecessary items. Try to manage your temper and avoid impulsive reactions. Lovebirds should steer clear of petty arguments, as they may strain the relationship.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
A positive day is ahead. You'll enjoy harmony in both personal and professional life. Your polite and cooperative nature will help in completing tasks smoothly. New sources of income may emerge, improving your finances. You might plan to renovate your home or office. Job professionals can expect promotions or recognition.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may find yourself deeply focused on work. With the blessings of elders, you might implement innovative ideas successfully. By following ethics and rules, you'll gain peace of mind and inner strength. A good day to make long-term plans with a clear conscience.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Satisfaction from fulfilling your work responsibilities brings inner peace. A short work-related trip could be beneficial. Visiting a religious place may uplift your mood and help realign your goals. Guidance from mentors or spiritual figures may give you much-needed clarity.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel mentally low. It's essential to stay calm and avoid impulsive actions. Travel related to recovering pending money may be on the cards, but avoid risky adventures. Students should focus on deep study. You may also feel drawn to spiritual or mystical subjects.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
A harmonious family environment brings joy. Meeting an influential person could benefit your professional life. Your performance at work may earn you rewards or a promotion. Long-standing property disputes may move toward resolution.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel reflective today. Self-analysis brings renewed confidence and a sharper focus on your goals. Creative energy is high—you may be drawn to art, movies, fashion, or design. By day's end, you'll likely feel content and back in control, with opponents losing their edge.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Mixed emotions may cloud your day. Avoid placing expectations on others to prevent disappointment. Self-introspection will help filter out negative thoughts and rebuild your inner strength. After some emotional clarity, you'll be better equipped to tackle challenges ahead.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Negativity around you may lead to frustration. You might view responsibilities as burdens and feel rushed to complete tasks, resulting in mistakes. Your work pace could slow, causing project delays. Consult elders or professionals before making key decisions.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A promising day on the professional front. Your sharp focus will help you finish tasks efficiently, boosting your confidence. A short work-related trip may strengthen your business network. Stay proactive, as the day favors productivity and progress.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
The Moon's blessing brings calmness and clarity. Inherited property matters may bring good news. Your polite demeanor and communication skills can attract new business opportunities. Though you may not exert much effort, you'll still see positive movement on the work front.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today brings balance, despite external stress. You'll maintain inner peace and stay composed in both professional and personal life. Your parents' health is improving, adding to your emotional comfort. Good news may come from siblings, brightening your day further.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(8 + (8 * 8 - (1/8) + 8 / 8
(8 + 64 / 8 + 8) / 8
(8 + 8 + 8) / 8
24 / 8 = 3

RIDDLER My friend was unaware that you NEVER add milk AND lemon to your tea as the citric acid in the lemon will cause the proteins in the milk to curdle, making for an unpleasant cup of tea indeed.

FAST FIVE

A	G	U	E	Y
R	I	O	T	S
B	R	A	N	T
A	N	I	O	N
S	U	M	M	A

BULL'S EYE
gIen, LEMMING, lIng, mingle

STRIKE OUT

L	I	M	P	I	N	G	■	A	H	E	A	D	■	E
E	■	A	■	R	■	E	L	V	E	R	■	A	■	T
N	U	R	S	E	R	Y	■	E	A	G	A	N	■	I
T	■	S	■	N	■	S	■	■	R	■	■	■	■	I
I	M	A	G	E	■	E	A	R	D	R	U	M	■	■
G	■	L	■	A	R	C	H	■	S	■	■	■	■	■
O	K	A	P	I	S	■	E	O	N	I	A	N	■	■
■	E	■	S	A	A	R	■	G	■	U	■	■	■	■
C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	■	F	L	U	I	D	■	■
A	■	■	U	■	G	■	O	■	A	■	I	■	■	■
L	A	P	S	E	■	E	R	R	A	N	D	S	■	■
E	■	S	T	O	L	A	■	U	■	A	■	T	■	■
B	L	I	S	S	■	N	E	M	E	S	I	S	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Start with the top left circle, and move around the others in a W shape. The sum of the numbers in each circle follows the sequence of 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18.

QUOTE UNCODE
I know that there are people who do not love their fellow man, and I hate people like that!

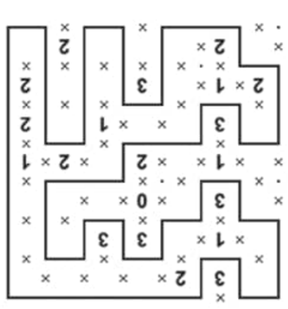
SUDOKU

6	2	1	9	5	7	4	8	3
7	5	8	4	6	3	9	2	1
4	9	3	8	2	1	7	6	5
9	3	7	6	8	5	2	1	4
2	1	4	7	3	9	6	5	8
8	6	5	1	4	2	3	9	7
5	7	6	2	1	4	8	3	9
1	4	2	3	9	8	5	7	6
3	8	9	5	7	6	1	4	2

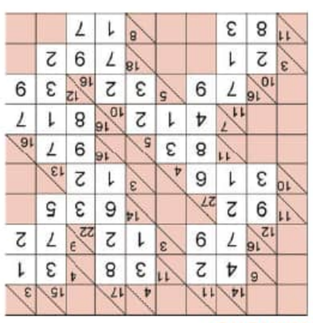
ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, MI, SIm, DIms, DImes, DeImos, ImposeD.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 6 + 8 − 6 = 10
Medium
4 + 7 + 6 − 5 = 12
Hard
6 + 9 x 4 + 1 = 61

LOOP



KAKURO



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